HIS MAJESTIES ANSWER

To the PETITION which accompanied the DECLARATION of the House of COMMONS:

Presented to Him at *Hampton-Court*, the first of December. 1641.

LONDON:
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MDCXLI.

DIEV ET MON DROIT

HIS MAJESTIES ANSWER

To the PETITION which accompanied the DECLARATION *Presented to Him at* Hampton-Court, 1° Decemb. 1641.

WEE having received from you, ſoon after Our return out of *Scotland*, a long Petition, conſiſting of many deſires, of great moment, together with a Declaration of a very unuſuall nature

annexed thereunto, We had taken ſome time to conſider of it, as befitted Us in a matter of that conſequence, being confident, that your own reaſon and regard to Us, as well as Our expreſſe intimation by Our Comptroller to that purpoſe, would have reſtrained you from the publiſhing of it, till ſuch time, as you ſhould have received Our Anſwer to it: But, much againſt Our expectation, finding the contrary, that the ſaid Declaration is already abroad in Print, by directions from your Houſe, as appears by the printed Copy; We muſt let you know that We are very ſenſible of the diſreſpect. Notwithſtanding, it is Our Intention, that no failing on your part,

part, ſhall make Us fail in Ours, of giving all due ſatisfaction to the deſires of Our people, in a Parliamentary way; And therefore VVe ſend you this Anſwer to your Petition, reſerving Our ſelf in point of the Declaration, which VVe think unparliamentary, and ſhall take a courſe to do that which VVe ſhall think fit in prudence and honour.

To the Petition, VVe ſay, that although there are divers things in the Preamble of it, which VVe are ſo far from admitting, that VVe profeſſe VVe cannot at all underſtand them, as, *Of a wicked and malignant party prevalent in the Government; Of ſome of that party admitted to Our Privie Councell,*

and to other Imployments of truſt, and neereſt to Us and Our Children; Of Endeavours to ſowe among the People falſe ſcandals and imputations, to blemiſh and diſgrace the Proceedings of the Parliament: All, or any of which, did VVe know of, VVe ſhould be as ready to remedy and puniſh, as you to complain of. That the Prayers of your Petition are grounded upon ſuch Premiſſes as VVe muſt in no wiſe admit; yet notwithſtanding VVe are pleaſed to give this Anſwer to you.

To the firſt concerning Religion, conſiſting of ſeverall branches, VVe ſay, that for the preſerving the Peace and Safety of the Kingdom from the deſignes of the Popiſh partie,

partie, VVe have, and will ſtill concur with all the juſt deſires of Our people in a Parliamentarie way; That for the depriving of the Biſhops of their Votes in Parliament, VVe would have you conſider, that their right is grounded upon the fundamentall Law of the Kingdom, and conſtitution of Parliament; This VVe would have you conſider, but ſince you deſire Our concurrence herein in a Parliamentary way, VVe will give no further anſwer at this time.

As for the abridging of the inordinate power of the Clergy, VVe conceive that the taking away of the high Commiſsion Court hath well moderated that, but if there continue any Uſurpations, or

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Exceſſes in their Juriſdictions, VVe therein neither have nor will protect them.

Unto that Clauſe which concerneth Corruptions (as you ſtile them) in Religion, in Church-government, and in Diſcipline, and the removing of ſuch unneceſſary Ceremonies as weak Conſciences might cheque at. That for any illegall Innovations which may have crept in, VVe ſhall willingly concur in the removall of them. That if Our Parliament ſhall adviſe Us to call a Nationall Synod, which may duly examine ſuch Ceremonies as give juſt cauſe of offence to any, VVe ſhall take it into conſideration, and apply Our Self to give due ſatisfaction therein; But

VVe

bly desire your Majesties gracious and speedy Answer, because their safetie, and the safetie of the whole Kingdom depends upon it, and will not admit of any delay.

HONI SOIT QVI MAL Y PENSE
DIEV · ET · MON · DROIT

HIS MAJESTIES ANSVVER

To the Meſſage, or Propoſition, ſent the laſt of December paſt, by the Houſe of Commons, for a GUARD.

WE *have taken the laſt Meſſage from you, touching your deſire of a Guard, into ſerious conſideration, and truly with great grief of heart (that after a whole yeers ſitting of this Parlia-*

ment, wherein you have obtained those things, for the happineſſe and ſecurity of your ſelves, and the reſt of Our Subjects, as no age can equall) inſtead of reaping in Peace and tranquillity the fruits of your Labours, and of Our Grace and affection to Our People, We ſhould finde Jealouſies, Diſtruſts, and Fears ſtill ſo prevalent amongſt you, as to induce you to declare them unto Us, in ſo high a meaſure as you have done at this time.

We are wholly ignorant of the Grounds of your Apprehenſions, but this We do Proteſt before Almighty God (to whom We muſt be accountable for thoſe, whom he hath intruſted to Our care and Protection) that had We any knowledge, or belief of

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the leaſt deſigne in any, of Violence, either formerly, or at this time, againſt you, We would purſue them to condigne puniſhment, with the ſame ſeverity and deteſtation, that We would do the greateſt attempt upon Our Crown.

VVe know the duty of that place where God hath ſet Us, the Protection VVe owe to all Our Loyall Subjects, and moſt particularly to you, called to Our Service by Our VVrits; And VVe do ingage unto you ſolemnly the word of a King, That the ſecurity of all and every one of you from violence, is, and ſhall ever be as much Our care, as the Preſervation of Us and Our Children.

And if this generall Assurance shall not suffice to remove your Apprehensions, We will command such a Guard to wait upon you, as We will be responsible for to Him, who hath encharged Us with the Safetie and Protection of Our Subjects.

WHITE-HALL,
3. Jan. 1641.

FINIS.